



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**High Country Inn
Whitehorse, Yukon**

May 8-9, 2001

Tuesday May 8, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of
Canada
Dorothy Cooley –Alternate – Yukon Government
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guest: Ron Larsen, Parks Canada, Inuvik

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that will need the most attention. In addition to a number of updates, members need to consider wildlife proposals for 2001-02, the next steps in the review of the draft of the Muskox Management Plan, the year end financial statement and the 2001-02 WMAC(NS) budget. Comments on the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan also need to be reviewed.

Guests during the second day will be Dave Ladret of YTG Parks Branch, Don Russell, Canadian Wildlife Service, Barney Smith, YTG Renewable Resources and two representatives from the COSEWIC Secretariat in Ottawa.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the December 10-13, 2000 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the December 10-13, 2000 meeting. No changes to the minutes were proposed.

Motion

To accept the minutes of December 10-13, 2000 meeting.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

D. Review and Approval of Minutes of the February 1, 2001 teleconference

Members reviewed the minutes of the February 1, 2001 teleconference. No changes to the minutes were proposed.

Motion

To accept the minutes of February 1, 2001 teleconference

Moved: Joan Eamer
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items of the December 10-13, 2000 meeting

Outstanding Items

Action 99-05-22: The Chair will discuss the issues around protected areas with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors to determine if there is any interest in considering the land management options for the special areas on the Yukon

North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan and to determine how the HTC wants to proceed with this issue.

Retired. Members discussed the changes that have taken place within the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat since this action was originally put forward. There may be a need to use IFA funds in order to look into this issue further and determine if there is a need for further protection of these areas, what form that protection would take and how it would be done.

Action 01-05-01: WMAC(NS) will contact the new Acting Director of the Yukon Parks and Protected Areas Branch to discuss land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan.

Action 01-05-02: WMAC(NS) will add the consideration of land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan to a list of potential IFA-funded research projects.

Action 00-07-02: The Secretariat will contact a curriculum specialist to determine what needs to be done to integrate the information gathered for the muskox school unit into the current curriculum.

Outstanding.

Action 00-07-03: The Secretariat will ensure that communication protocol developed by WMAC(NS) is added to the agenda of the Roles and Responsibilities workshop.

Revised. A protocol should be completed based on the discussions of the Roles and Responsibilities workshop, where it was agreed that the co-management bodies should be the communications center, while recognizing that direct communication between, for example, the IGC and the Yukon Government may be necessary at some time.

Action 01-05-03: WMAC(NS) will develop a communication protocol based on the discussions at the Roles and Responsibilities workshop and circulate it to members.

Action 00-07-26: The Secretariat will send a copy of the Canadian and international list of species at risk to all Council members.

Completed.

Action 00-09-01: Dorothy Cooley will send a copy of the muskox school unit to the WMAC(NS) Secretariat.

Completed.

Action 00-09-04: WMAC(NS) Secretariat will develop a discussion document on a process for reviewing and recommending funding for North Slope wildlife management and research projects for review at the Council's meeting in December.

Outstanding. The Chair commented that this should still be done based on the discussions of the Roles and Responsibilities workshop.

Action 00-09-07: The Secretariat will circulate the tourism guidelines developed by WMAC(NS), for members to review.

Completed.

Action 00-09-09: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG Parks Branch to request that a workplan for the upcoming year for Herschel Island Territorial Park is tabled at the Council's meeting each December. The letter will also request an end of season report at the Council's September meeting and a report in the spring on preparations for the year.

Completed. The Chair noted that this letter has been sent to the new Acting Director of the Yukon Parks and Protected Areas Branch and will provide him with an outline of the process that has been agreed to between the Council and the Parks Branch.

Action 00-09-13: Dorothy Cooley will coordinate the community consultations on the Muskox Management Plan, with assistance from the WMAC(NS) Secretariat as required.

Completed. Further actions needed to complete the consultations will be considered later in the meeting.

Current Items

Action 00-12-01: Dorothy Cooley will send an electronic version of her report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring to the Secretariat.

Completed.

Action 00-12-02: Dorothy Cooley and Danny C. Gordon will prepare a proposal for ground-based snow surveys, to be conducted in the spring of 2001.

Retired. Dorothy Cooley reported that as no funding was available for such a project a proposal was never developed.

Action 00-12-03: The Secretariat will circulate Dorothy Cooley's report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring for comments. Comments will be incorporated along with a section describing the community benefits into an expanded report that shows the strengths and weaknesses of the two methods.

Outstanding. The Secretariat will circulate the report again for members' comments and suggestions. Of particular importance is Danny C. Gordon's perspective of the survey.

Action 01-05-04: The Secretariat will ensure that Danny C. Gordon's comments are incorporated into the expanded report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring project.

Action 01-05-05: The Secretariat will forward a copy of the video of the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring project to Doug Larsen.

Action 00-12-04: WMAC(NS) will write to Wildlife Habitat Canada to inform them of the Council's interests in finding partners to conduct habit studies on the North Slope. The letter will include a copy of the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan and information on habitat work currently being undertaken.

Completed.

Action 00-12-05: The Chair will write a memo to the Chair of IGC, the Chairs of IFA Joint Committees and the Executive Director, Joint Secretariat, regarding the proposed Roles and Responsibilities workshop. The memo is to outline suggestions for the workshop's purpose and participation as well as a number of issues that should be addressed. The suggestions are to be presented as points for further discussions and recipients are to be encouraged to advance their thoughts to Norm Snow.

Completed.

Action 00-12-06: The Secretariat will phone the Clerk of the Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks to inform her that the Council is interested in appearing at the hearings.

Completed. The Chair and Danny C. Gordon will be appearing before the Subcommittee later in the week. A discussion was held regarding the points that could be raised during their presentation. These included the hiring of Aklavik residents to participate in wildlife surveys and the potential for conflict between harvesters and tourists in the national park.

Action 00-12-07: WMAC(NS) will consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council to get their

comments on any submission that is prepared for future presentation to the Standing Committee on SARA.

Completed.

Action 00-12-08: WMAC(NS) will draft and transmit requests for proposals to incorporate traditional knowledge comments into the species reports of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

Revised.

Action 01-05-06: WMAC(NS) will draft a request for proposals to incorporate traditional knowledge comments into the species reports of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and circulate the draft to members for comment.

Action 00-12-09: WMAC(NS) will discuss the possibility of conducting a workshop to collect local knowledge about muskox with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and during the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT).

Completed.

Action 00-12-10: The Secretariat will draft a proposal for a workshop to collect local knowledge about muskox. The workshop is to be held in Aklavik and include participation from Kaktovik and the NWT.

Completed. A proposal for the workshop was prepared by Dorothy Cooley and is included in the wildlife proposals to be considered later in the meeting.

Action 00-12-11: WMAC(NS) will write to Brian Pelchat, Chief, Regional Management, YTG Renewable Resources, to inform him of the Council's interest in being consulted regarding the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. The letter should also include other items discussed at the Council's December 2000 meeting regarding this issue. Copies are to be sent to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and Parks Canada.

Completed.

Action 00-12-12: WMAC(NS) will write to William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, in response to his letter regarding the consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. The letter will acknowledge the desire to consult, reiterate that it is a plan for the Yukon North Slope and refer to Annex S of the IFA.

Completed.

Action 00-12-13: WMAC(NS) will forward the letter from William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, regarding the consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Completed.

Action 00-12-14: The Secretariat will contact Linda Hoffman to obtain copies of the draft Porcupine Caribou Management Plan and circulate it to Council members. A teleconference will be scheduled to review the plan, if necessary.

Completed. The Secretariat reported that no comments were received. Dorothy Cooley reported that the new plan was adopted at the PCMB's April meeting.

Action 00-12-15: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to summarize the Council's role in the organization of the 2000 Yukon North Slope Conference and to indicate how much time the Council spent on the associated tasks.

Completed.

Action 00-12-16: WMAC(NS) will contact Doug Chipczak to obtain a copy of the report on the Marine Ecosystem Health Workshop held in Aklavik, March 2000.

Completed.

Action 00-12-17: The Secretariat will circulate review comments on the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to members in January. The Council will hold a teleconference to determine how comments are to be incorporated.

Completed.

Action 00-12-18: The Secretariat will contact Fred Roots regarding the publication, by WMAC(NS), of his presentation at the Long-term Research Plan Implementation Workshop, January 2000.

Completed.

Action 00-12-19: A link should be added to the Long-term Research Plan website to a printable version of the Plan.

Completed.

Action 00-12-20: The Secretariat will prepare a general summary of the Long-term Research Plan Implementation Workshop and distribute it to the participants, with a letter to inform them of the process being undertaken to incorporate the changes and additions suggested during the workshop into the Plan.

Outstanding.

Action 00-12-21: The Secretariat will prepare a memo to file on the 2000 North Slope Conference which includes the members comments and the Council's experiences in the organization if the conference.

Completed.

Action 00-12-22: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government, Parks Canada and the GNWT to reaffirm the existing grizzly bear quota resolution and to recommend that, in recognition of community concerns, the three parties get together as soon as possible to discuss how to proceed with conducting a population survey on the Yukon North Slope.

Completed.

Action 00-12-23: The Chair will convey the concern regarding the enforcement of the Aklavik HTC's whale hunting bylaws to Bob Bell, Chair of the FJMC.

Completed.

Action 00-12-24: WMAC(NS) will prepare a Request for Proposals to undertake a literature search of materials related to the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope. The Secretariat will circulate the RFP to members before it is distributed.

Outstanding. Deferred due to lack of funds to initiate the proposed work. The Council will approach the FJMC regarding their views and interests in this work.

Action 00-12-25: The Secretariat will contact the EISC to inform them of the Council's intention to undertake a literature search of materials related to the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope.

Outstanding. Deferred due to lack of funds to initiate the proposed work.

Action 00-12-26: The Secretariat will contact Heather Swystun to inform her of the Council's support for her project, contingent the participation of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and local hire.

Completed.

Action 00-12-27: The Secretariat will prepare a package of proposals for 2001-02 wildlife management and research project for Council members to review in February.

Completed.

E. Correspondence

Council members reviewed the following correspondence:

- A letter from the five Chairs of the Inuvialuit Co-management Boards and Committees to the Honourable Robert Nault, Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to express their concerns regarding the preparedness of the federal and territorial governments, the communities and the Inuvialuit organizations for the renewed hydrocarbon exploration and development in the Mackenzie Delta.
- A letter to the Joint Secretariat from Pat Duncan, Premier, and Dale Eftoda, Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Government, to express their thanks for receiving a copy of the letter sent to Robert Nault (see above correspondence)
- A letter from Robert Nault to the Chairs in response to their letter regarding the recent hydrocarbon activity in the Mackenzie Delta. The Chair commented that the response was not satisfactory and that a direct meeting with the Minister is needed in order to discuss the concerns of the five Chairs of the Inuvialuit Co-management Boards and Committees that were expressed in their letter.
- A letter from Bob Bell, Chair, FJMC, to Matthew King, Assistant Deputy Minister, DFO, regarding hydrocarbon development activities in the Western Arctic.
- A letter from the Chair to William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation regarding the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan.
- A letter from the Inuvialuit Game Council to James Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs Program regarding Yukon Act regulations and DAP legislation. The letter includes a proposed amendment to section 19.3.
- A letter, dated February 1999, from Ron Cruikshank, Planning Director, Yukon Land Use Planning Council, to Nellie Cournoyea regarding the establishment of a Land Use Planning Commission for the Vuntut traditional territory.
- A letter to Duane Smith, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council, from Roger Horner, Policy and Planning, Northern Affairs Program, regarding the establishment of a Land Use Planning Commission for the Vuntut traditional territory.
- A letter from the Vuntut Planning Commission regarding their mandate and activities.

Action 01-05-07: WMAC(NS) will write to the Vuntut Planning Commission to ask that the Council be kept informed of the Commission's activities.

- A letter from Ed McLean, FJMC, announcing the reprinting of the Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan.

- A letter from Bob Bell, Chair, FJMC, to Peter Millman, Anderson Exploration Ltd. Regarding the FJMC's comments on pre-submission materials for Anderson's proposed offshore seismic program in the Beaufort Sea.
- Two letters from Dale Eftoda, Minister, YTG Renewable Resources, – one to the WMAC(NS) Chair and one to Duane Smith- regarding the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act.

F. Report from the Chair

The Chair commented that he will be reporting on the Roles and Responsibilities workshop, the Inuvialuit Harvest Study and the muskox consultations later in the meeting.

The Chair distributed a Memo to File briefing note on the current oil and gas activity in Inuvik, which he prepared based on conversations with Norm Snow, the Executive Director of the Joint Secretariat. The 'over-the-top' option for a pipeline is still very possible. The decision as to which route to use will be made by the gas producers and will be based on costs.

The Chair reported that although some gap analyses have been prepared, the quality is poor. Many other interests want to do their own analysis. The need for the Joint Secretariat to do a gap analysis was recognized during the Roles and Responsibilities workshop. Doug Larsen reported that he had recently met with representatives of oil and gas interests and that he had stressed the importance of consultation with regional Boards and Councils.

Danny C. Gordon added that the Alaskan producers had recently been to Aklavik and given a presentation. Danny reported that the community had expressed their concerns about adverse effects on the fish and whale populations.

The Chair also commented that the Chairs of the Co-management bodies received a presentation on a proposal for an Area Operating Agreement at a meeting in March. This will be distributed to members.

G. Members' Report

Doug Larsen commented that the issues he wishes to address will be covered later in the meeting.

Dorothy Cooley reported that the Vuntut Gwitchin held two land use planning meetings in Old Crow. The first was an information session and the second was a planning session during which species by species issues were raised. Joint management planning for muskox and sheep in the Richardson Mountains was deferred until the fall. These two species will not be included in the Vuntut land use plan but will have their own separate

plans developed. The Vuntut Gwitchin will be contacting the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board to further discuss muskox and sheep.

Danny C. Gordon reported that Carol Arey has resigned as the President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. Dennis Arey is acting in the position. There is no permanent Resource Person. The HTC needs to have an election soon to fill a number of vacancies. The community feels that the overlap agreement between the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit needs to be settled. The HTC needs help to move along with this.

Ron Larsen reported on Parks Canada activities in Inuvik and on Ivvavik National Park as follows:

- Ottawa has completed a formal review of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan and has requested some format changes. Once these changes are made the Plan will be returned to Ottawa for further review. Stakeholders will then have an opportunity to review it again too.
- The Western Arctic region of Parks Canada has had big cut backs to their budget. The cutbacks will mainly effect Tuk Tuk Nogait but will also be felt in the Ivvavik National Park budget.
- The full results of the water testing at Stokes Point are still not available. Early results show some contamination on sight. Parks is looking for funding to do some further investigations.
- As a result of a ruling under the Canada Labour Code, Parks Canada personnel can no longer participate in any law enforcement until they are issued sidearms. Parks will be issuing sidearms in order to address this situation. RCMP will be providing the law enforcement in the national parks as in interim measure.
- Parks has begun to develop regulations for the new National Parks Act. Some of the new regulations will support aboriginal harvesting rights in national parks established in land claim agreements.
- Alan Fehr continues to act a Superintendent for the Western Arctic. Ian Brown has left for a one year placement in Ottawa and his position remains vacant.

Joan Eamer reported on activities related to Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service as follows:

- The 6th Annual Gathering of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative was held in Aklavik, March 1-3. A summary report of the Gathering is included in the meeting binders.
- In reference to EMAN North, Joan reported that the group has a steering committee and that they have developed a strategic plan.
- The Northern Climate Exchange's Climate Change in the Circumpolar North Conference that was held in March was very successful. A visioning session is planned for May as a follow-up to the conference.
- Don Russell has left his position as Manager at CWS in Whitehorse. He will be concentrating his work on caribou research. The process is now underway to hire a new Manager.

H. Old Business

1) Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair reported that many attempts have been made by the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee in the last few years to overhaul the study. Actions taken by the Committee have included changes to the harvest reporting and the analysis of ten years of data. Difficulties have continued to arise with harvest reporting and data collection in some communities.

The Management Committee met in March and recommended that the Harvest Study be terminated. There is a need for each community to discuss their needs for harvest data. The Roles and Responsibilities workshop clarified that the co-management bodies should be determining the need and overall purpose for harvest data. The HTCs are to assist in the collection of harvest information at the request of the co-management bodies.

The Ten-year Data Report is completed in draft. It includes an introduction to the study and tables which list the reported harvest by species, by year, by community. Errors have been found in the draft. Relevant agencies have agreed to take the responsibility to review and correct the tables if possible. It is hoped that the report will be finalized by the end of May.

A discussion was held as to the usefulness of having printed tables as opposed to an electronic database. Concerns were raised regarding the errors in the data. The Chair commented that the Management Committee still isn't sure at what stage the errors occurred. It could have been in the data entry or they could have been made when the document was laid out for printing. This needs to be clarified and corrected.

The Chair reported that some agencies and communities want to continue harvest reporting. For example Holman will continue to collect information on fish harvest for DFO. Other communities may take part in harvest reporting in conjunction with individual agencies.

The Inuvialuit Harvest Study has been terminated. The most important remaining task is the finalising of the Ten-year Data Report. It will now be the responsibility of the co-management bodies and the government agencies to determine the need for harvest information in the future.

Members agreed that in reference to the North Slope, it will be important to get harvest information on the Porcupine caribou herd, species under quota and possibly moose. YTG has prepared a memo of their harvest information requirements for the North Slope.

Action 01-05-08: WMAC(NS) will obtain a copy of YTG's past correspondence regarding North Slope harvest information requirements and forward it to the other co-management bodies and Chair of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee.

2) 2001-02 Wildlife Management and Research

Members reviewed the wildlife research proposals in the meeting binders. Dorothy Cooley summarized proposals submitted by YTG as follows:

1. Porcupine Caribou Herd Calving Surveys, June/July 2001

This is the annual survey conducted to estimate the number of calves born and to document calving locations. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is the lead agency. This work has always been coordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, Yukon Renewable Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. YTG contributions in the past have been fuel in the field and staff time if needed. YTG also arranges for permit applications for the Alaskans to work in the ISR in case the caribou are not in Alaska. Council members agreed to support the Porcupine Caribou Herd Calving Surveys, June/July 2001, and recommended the allocation of \$2000 toward the costs of fuel for this project.

2. Porcupine Caribou Photocensus and Composition Count, June/ July 2001

The photocensus and composition count is conducted in order to estimate the total number of animals in the herd and to estimate the proportion of cows that have calves surviving in their first month of life. A photocensus is usually done on the herd every 3 years however because the 1998 count indicated a slow decline since 1989, the census was attempted 2000. Because of weather conditions and caribou distribution, the 2000 census was not possible. Another attempt will be made in 2001. Council members agreed to support this project. No IFA funds were requested.

3. Herschel Island Vegetation Studies

The objective of the studies is to continue a long-term multi-part monitoring program, begun in 1998, to obtain information on soils and vegetation on Herschel Island, in order to better understand the habitat use and ecology, and to obtain information on the use of habitat types by the animals on the island. This work will take place opportunistically if project personnel base their Ivvavik National Park work from Herschel Island. There will be no additional costs to implement this project if it is carried out in conjunction with the Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey. (see below). Personnel for this project include Catherine Kennedy, Dorothy Cooley (YTG), and Scott Smith (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). Council members agreed to support the Herschel Island Vegetation Studies. No IFA funds were requested for this project.

4. Porcupine Caribou Composition Count, March 2002

The Government of Yukon will conduct a composition count in March 2002 to estimate over-winter survival of calves. Late winter range use by the herd will also be documented. March composition counts are the closest estimate available to a recruitment estimate (the number of caribou gained due to new calves) in most years. The total budget for this project is \$6,000 to cover the costs of travel and helicopter time. Council members agreed to support the Porcupine Caribou Composition Count, March 2002 and recommended the allocation of \$6000 toward the costs of this project.

5. Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2002

The objective of this program is to maintain between 80 and 100 conventional radio collars on the herd in order to locate them during the composition counts and censuses. Each year, radio collared caribou die of natural causes. More collars need to be placed on caribou each year in order to maintain the number of collars on the herd. Radio collars are used for numerous projects with the herd. They allow for the location and identification of individual caribou. Radio collars are used to locate the herd for the March composition counts and for the July censuses. The collars have been crucial in documenting the importance of ANWR to calving caribou. The number of caribou to capture depends on the number of radio collars partner agencies are able to purchase. The total cost for deploying the conventional collars is \$17,600. There are additional costs of approximately \$10,500 to partner agencies for the purchase of the new collars. Council members agreed to support the Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2002 and recommended the allocation of \$ 17,600 toward the costs of this project.

6. Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program

This is a co-operative effort to maintain satellite collars on Porcupine Caribou cows to document annual migration routes and winter range use. Ten satellite collars deployed in 1997. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased satellite collars. YTG deploys the collars. Contributions from various organizations are sought to pay for satellite system fees and data retrieval. The total budget for this project is \$12,000 for system fees and data recovery plus and \$30,000 for collar purchase. Contributing agencies include Parks Canada, GNWT, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. Council members agreed to support the Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program and recommended the allocation of \$2000 toward the costs of system fees and data recovery.

7. Porcupine Caribou Body Condition Monitoring (Aklavik)

The objective of this study is to monitor the general health of Porcupine Caribou using hunter submitted samples. It is important to monitor the body condition of adult cow caribou in order to keep track of how fat cows are in the fall. This is an indicator of how likely they are to give birth to a calf the next spring. Hunters from participating communities (Aklavik, Old Crow, Fort McPherson and Dawson) will be asked to take measurements on any cow that they harvest in the fall. For their time and effort, hunters will be paid \$25 for each caribou sampled. An administrator will be set up in participating communities. The role of this person is primarily to gather the samples from the hunters and pay them but they may need to recruit and train other hunters, if necessary, and answer questions. The total cost to carry out this project annually in all four communities is estimated at \$13,545, to pay for samples, supplies, administration and shipping. This year, there is a one-time expenditure to purchase apartment-sized freezers for each community so the samples can be stored until hunters are finished collecting. Council members agreed to support the Porcupine Caribou Body Condition Monitoring in Aklavik and recommended the allocation of \$3,500 toward the costs of this project.

8. Hunter Education Workshop

YTG's Field Service Branch offer hunter education workshops throughout the Yukon. Recently, YTG has tried to intensify hunter education for caribou hunters along the Dempster Highway and will be trying to arrange for hunter education workshops for several communities. This project will offer a workshop for Aklavik hunters. These workshops focus on wildlife biology, hunting practices, and marksmanship. The workshops are well received by all hunters - even lifetime hunters report that they have benefited in some way from this workshop. All hunters benefit from this reminder course about firearm selection, shot placement, meat handling and wildlife biology. The total budget for this project is \$3000. Council members agreed to support the Hunter Education Workshop and recommended the allocation of \$3,000 toward the costs of this project.

9. Muskox Ecology Study

The objective of the study is to determine the habitat and movements of the muskox on the Yukon North Slope in order to ensure proper and effective management and to assist in determining a sustainable harvest quota. This is the third year of a 3-year project looking at muskox on the Yukon North Slope. Activities in this third year include a census and composition count in order to obtain more information on age classes, sex ratios and locations of unmarked animals. The satellite data will be received, and in March 2002, the muskox will be recaptured to remove the satellite collars. The total budget for this project is \$54,040 to cover the costs of travel, helicopter time, fixed wing time, satellite data retrieval, salary for local observers and equipment. Parks Canada will be contributing \$5,000 towards this total. Council members agreed to support the third year of the Muskox Ecology Study and recommended the allocation of \$49,040 toward the costs of this project.

10. Richardson Mountain Grizzly Bear Population Estimate

The Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has recently requested a review of the hunting quota, which necessitates a new population estimate. At a joint WMAC(NS) / WMAC(NWT) held in December 2000, the co-management councils agreed on the importance of another estimate being undertaken soon. The proposal is to capture and mark the bears. The preferred option is the temporary marking by break-away visual bands or radio collars. This eliminates the need for recapturing the bears to remove the collars. During the grizzly workshop in February 2000, Aklavik indicated that they want a mark-recapture estimate rather than a DNA estimate. Initial cost estimates for this project range between \$38,200 and \$48,200. This project is dependent on GNWT's availability to do this survey. Dorothy reported that GNWT personnel are not available this year to participate due to the demands of the current regional oil and gas activity. Council members agreed to continue to support this project. No IFA funds were recommended at this time but members declared their willingness to recommend funding as soon as GNWT personnel are available to conduct the study, or once YTG has hired a new bear biologist who would be able to undertake the work.

11. North Slope Moose Traditional Knowledge

Interviews would be conducted in Aklavik in order to document local and traditional knowledge of historical moose distribution, abundance and ecology on the North Slope. Based on the limited current knowledge, moose are a relative newcomer to the Yukon North Slope. The reasons for the northward expansion of their range are not well understood but are likely related to climate change. If this is the case, changes in moose and moose habitat distribution can act as sensitive indicators of climate change in the region. Continued climatic warming will likely result in fundamental changes in northern ecosystems. A shift from tundra to taiga ecosystems may, in turn, lead to a reduction in caribou distribution and abundance and further increases in moose numbers. Knowing how things have changed in the past will help to predict what is likely happen in the future. A budget for this project has not yet been prepared. Total costs would depend on such factors as the duration of the project, the cost to hire an interviewer, the number of elders interviewed, and the honorarium for participating. Council members did not support this project at this time. This project still requires the support of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and a completed budget before it can be considered. Some of the information this project wishes to document will be obtained as part of the traditional knowledge review of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan's Species Status Reports.

12. Muskox Management Workshop (Aklavik)

Dorothy submitted a proposal titled 'Local Observations of Muskox and Caribou Interactions'. The objective of the project would be to document observations of muskox and caribou interaction by local people by bringing participants from Kaktovik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Aklavik together in a workshop. Members agreed that there is a need to do more than this. An expanded proposal was discussed which would bring together community, co-management board and government representatives in a workshop in Aklavik to (1) exchange information and document local observations of muskox, (2) share information on muskox behaviour and biology and (3) complete the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan and determine a strategy for its implementation. The proposed three-day workshop would be held in the fall. The initial cost for the community participation component of the workshop has been estimated as \$16,000 (travel, per diem, billets) A more detailed budget needs to be completed for the workshop as a whole. This project was requested and initially recommended by WMAC(NS) at their December 2000 meeting. Council members agreed to continue their support for the Muskox Management Workshop in Aklavik and recommended an initial allocation of \$16,000 toward the costs of this project. This project will be considered again at the next Council meeting if further funds are required once the final budget is prepared.

13. Old Crow Muskox Satellite Locations

Sightings of muskox in the Yukon and east of the Mackenzie River have been increasing in recent years. These sightings in non-usual places are most probably dispersing animals from the Yukon North Slope. Often groups are seen for a short time (up to 3 years) then they disappear. It is not known if they return to the Yukon North Slope, or if they move on to another area, or if they all die soon after leaving the North Slope. YTG is proposing to collar a muskox in the Old Crow region using a satellite collar that was recovered from

a muskox that had died on the Yukon North Slope. Documentation of movements by dispersing muskox will contribute greatly to the understanding of muskox range expansion and its role in or effect on population growth. The total cost for the project would be approximately \$10,900 over 4 years. This includes the cost of refurbishing the satellite collar, collar placement and removal and data retrieval. Dorothy Cooley is pursuing potential funding from sources in Old Crow to cover the costs of this project. At their December 2000 meeting in Aklavik, Council members approved YTG's use of the recovered muskox satellite collar to monitor the movements of muskox in the Old Crow area, contingent on the project being approved by the VGFN and NYRRC. Council members continue to support this project. No IFA funds were requested.

14. Identification of Yukon North Slope Polar Bear Denning Habitat

The objective of this project is to map current and potential polar bear denning habitat on the Yukon North Slope. Mapping of polar bear denning habitat and annual mapping of den use on the Yukon North Slope will complement the current GNWT polar bear satellite telemetry work. GNWT Inuvik started a project recently to document polar bear movements in the Beaufort Sea using satellite collars. These studies may have an effect on polar bear hunting quotas. YTG Fish and Wildlife Branch will work with Territorial Park Rangers and National Park Wardens to identify and map known and potential locations of polar bear maternal dens. If feasible, the Rangers and Wardens would also be helped to develop a system of annual monitoring of den locations that could be incorporated into their regular patrol schedule. Identification of these areas will enable us to minimize disturbance of these areas. This project is to be completed by September 2001 and will produce a map of current and potential habitat and a summary report and poster. Updates on den locations will be made annually. Information will be included into the Key Habitat Maps. Costs for this project are minimal. Discussions with rangers and wardens can take place over the phone or during other meetings. Map supplies are needed (approximately \$100). Council members agreed to support the implementation of this project. No IFA funds were requested.

15. Yukon North Slope Harvest Information

Council members discussed the need for obtaining harvest information on the Yukon North Slope. The Yukon Government will take over the responsibility of collecting information formerly provided through the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. Council members agreed to recommend \$10,000 for the collection of Yukon North Slope harvest information.

Joan Eamer distributed a proposal for Community-based monitoring in Aklavik and gave a summary of the project.

16. Community-based Monitoring in Aklavik

The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op annual community-based monitoring project will continue in 2001/02 in Aklavik (Gwich'in and Inuvialuit), as well as in Old Crow and Fort McPherson, with possible projects in Kaktovik and Arctic

Village. A local researcher in each community will conduct interviews with community experts, collecting and communicating information about the conditions and changes observed during the year. The total budget for the Coop's community-based monitoring project is \$29,500. This does not include costs of salary and travel expenses by Environment Canada for overall project development and co-ordination. The Co-op will also incur expenses for indicator and project development, communication, coordination, and for the annual gathering. Potential additional sources of funding for this fiscal year include: Environment Canada UFA implementation funding, Gwich'in RRB, DIAND, GNWT, Yukon Government, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US National Science Foundation. This project will be supervised by Joan Eamer, (CWS) in conjunction with the Aklavik HTC. A local researcher will be hired in Aklavik to conduct the interviews with local Inuvialuit experts. Council members agreed to support the Aklavik Community-based monitoring project and recommend the allocation of \$12,000 toward the costs of this project. Approximately \$4,000 of this will be spent in Aklavik, on the Aklavik Inuvialuit component of the community-based monitoring program, through contract and expenses for a person to conduct interviews and present results, and through honoraria. The balance of the funds will go towards training, travel, co-ordination and reporting costs of the project as a whole.

Members considered a proposal from Heather Swystun, a graduate at the University of Northern British Columbia.

17. Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

The objective of this study is to develop a way to monitor Tundra swans as an indicator of environmental health. The proposed study will take place in both the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in settlement regions, and include the participation of five communities. The first component of the study included traditional knowledge interviews. The second component will be the field work in the summer of 2001. This field work will include the comparison of disturbed and undisturbed areas to assess swan productivity and characteristics of nesting habitats. The importance of including study sites on the North Slope is that these areas are considered to be at the edge of the range for tundra swans and therefore climatic influences are likely to be most dramatic in these areas. As well, the Blow and Babbage River Deltas are less likely to be influenced by seismic exploration and they are adjacent to legislated protected areas. The total estimated cost of this entire project for 2001 is \$83,094. Council members agreed to support this project and recommended an allocation of \$5000 to be used toward the summer fieldwork component of the project to cover aerial surveys, field equipment, operating, and field assistant costs.

Ron Larsen summarized projects being proposed by Parks Canada as follows:

18. Ivvavik National Park Sheep Surveys

The objective of the surveys is to (1) determine the size, density, distribution, critical habitat and population structure of Dall's sheep in Ivvavik National Park, (2) identify knowledge gaps that may require more research in future years, (3) develop a long-term monitoring strategy. The study area is in the western portion of the British Mountains in Ivvavik National Park, between the Malcolm and Firth rivers, and includes the east side of the Firth River valley. The most recent census of sheep in the British Mountains was conducted in August 1986. A helicopter will be used to search all potential sheep habitat within the study area. Animals sighted will be counted, identified by age and sex and their location mapped using GPS. Two aerial surveys will be conducted- one in March (to determine winter ranges) and one in late June or early July. As well as providing the most complete count and most reliable composition data, the early summer survey will enable identification of lambing cliffs. Surveys will be completed over the entire study area in as few days as possible to minimize the potential of counting animals twice due to movement. The total budget for this project is \$54,160, to cover the costs of helicopter time, fuel, salary for one field assistant and supplies. Council members agreed to support the Ivvavik National Park Sheep Surveys and recommended the allocation of \$35,000 toward this project.

19. Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey

The objectives of this study are to (1) Collect data on vegetation and terrain attributes throughout the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park, to compare with data collected in 1988 and 1989. (2) Analyze the data collected using statistical methods to investigate if there are significant changes in vegetation and terrain attributes on the coastal plain over the past 12 to 13 year period. Baseline data on vegetation and terrain attributes on the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park is available from inventories that were conducted in 1988 and 1989. This study proposal is for the collection of data from similar sites in 2001, for comparative purposes and monitoring of possible environmental change. The results of this study would assist managers in assessing the ecological status of the coastal plain of Ivvavik in view of the various management plans of the region. The total budget for this project has been estimated as \$29,134, to cover the costs of travel, fuel, helicopter time and equipment. Staff time will be covered by participating agencies. Council members agreed to support this project. A recommendation for funding will be considered by the Council once the final budget for the project is available.

Action 01-05-09: The Secretariat will distribute a copy of the proposal for the Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey to members as soon as WMAC(NS) receives a budget for the project.

The Council's funding recommendations were summarized as follows:

Project Title	Funds
Porcupine Caribou Calving Surveys, June/July 2001	\$2,000
Muskox Ecology Study, Year 3 of 3	\$49,040
Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2002	\$17,600
Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program	\$2,000
Porcupine Caribou Composition Count, March 2002	\$6,000
Porcupine Caribou Body Condition Monitoring – Aklavik	\$3,500
Hunter Education Workshop	\$3,000
Muskox Management Workshop- Aklavik	\$16,000
Ivvavik National Park Sheep Surveys	\$35,000
Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik	\$12,000
Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region	\$5,000
Yukon North Slope Harvest Information	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$161,140

Funds available for 2001-02 total \$186,705. This leaves a balance of \$28,565 still available for wildlife research.

Motion

To recommend the allocation of funds from IFA wildlife program funding to the following projects: Porcupine Caribou Calving Surveys, June/July 2001 (\$2000); Muskox Ecology Study (\$49,040); Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2002 (\$17,600); Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program (\$2000); Porcupine Caribou Composition Count, March 2002 (\$6000); Porcupine Caribou Body Condition Monitoring – Aklavik (\$3500); Hunter Education Workshop (\$3000); Muskox Management Workshop- Aklavik (\$16,000); Ivvavik National Park Sheep Surveys (\$35,000); Community-based

Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik (\$12,000); Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region (\$5000); Yukon North Slope Harvest Information (\$10,000). The Council also agrees to support the following projects: Porcupine Caribou Photocensus and Composition Count, June/ July 2001; Herschel Island Vegetation Studies; Old Crow Muskox Satellite Locations; Identification of Yukon North Slope Polar Bear Denning Habitat; Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey; Richardson Mountain Grizzly Bear Population Estimate.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

Action 01-05-10: WMAC(NS) will prepare a summary of research projects supported at the May meeting and forward the summary along with the Council's funding recommendations to Parks Canada , the Yukon Government and the Canadian Wildlife Service. A copy of the summary will be sent to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee, for their information.

Wednesday May 9, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of
Canada
Dorothy Cooley – Alternate – Yukon Government
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch.
Colleen Hyslop, COSEWIC Secretariat
Sara Goulet, COSEWIC Secretariat
Don Russell, Canadian Wildlife Service, Whitehorse
Barney Smith, YTG Renewable Resources

I. New Business

1. Species at Risk and COSEWIC

The Chair welcomed Colleen Hyslop and Sara Goulet from the COSEWIC Secretariat, Barney Smith, YTG Renewable Resources and Don Russell, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Sara began with an explanation of the mandate of COSEWIC, which was formed in 1977. There is a diverse membership with eight species specialist groups. In accessing species different levels of risk are identified. Assessments are made on a scientific basis, which means that good quality information must be available. There is an annual meeting to assess identified species. COSEWIC uses the IUCN's criteria as a guideline but it uses it's own definitions when making decisions. COSEWIC is now looking at traditional knowledge as a source of information. An aboriginal working group has been formed under SARA (Species at Risk Act). COSEWIC is also considering forming a 'species' group for traditional knowledge.

The Chair commented that the northern reality includes a number of co-management groups that need to be recognized. They could serve as another avenue for information besides an aboriginal traditional knowledge specialist group. It is important to keep communications open between all parties.

Colleen informed members that feedback on the candidate list posted on the COSEWIC website would be helpful. Sara agreed to send a list of a species assessed in the Yukon.

Action 01-05-11: WMAC(NS) will provide COSEWIC with the Council's response to the list of a species assessed in the Yukon.

The Chair added that under the IFA the co-management bodies have significant responsibilities for conservation of wildlife. He noted that the three co-management bodies have filed a joint submission to the federal parliamentary Standing Committee reviewing the proposed Species at Risk Act. In reference to the Yukon North Slope, the Council has prepared species status reports that are updated every three years. There is also a Long-term Research Plan which identifies issues and gaps, as well as the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan which identifies issues related to population, habitat and development pressures. The Council is also involved with the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op.

Action 01-05-12: WMAC(NS) will send the Council's term report and other relevant printed materials to the COSEWIC Secretariat.

Barney Smith briefed members on the work that he has been doing over the winter in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service. Barney reported that there is a need to do some pilot projects to try to figure out how to include traditional knowledge in species assessments. For example, it has been proposed to use the results of the GNWT's traditional knowledge of grizzly bears as a pilot project. This raises a number of questions. How do you treat information collected for one purpose subsequently to serve other purposes and other users of the information? There are challenges related to teaching researchers and managers how to use traditional knowledge. There are also challenges regarding the access to traditional knowledge. Studies shouldn't proceed until we know that the traditional knowledge will be provided willingly. This raises further questions of protocols concerning the distribution and use of traditional knowledge information.

The Canadian Wildlife Service is trying to get funding for two other pilot projects, in addition to the Richardson Mountains grizzly bear project. A pilot project on wetlands and swans may be initiated in the central Yukon. In the southern Yukon another project could be initiated on bison. Council members agreed to write a letter of support to encourage Environment Canada to proceed with the study "Grizzly Bear Status Assessment in the Northern Richardson Mountains". Council members felt that this study will benefit the working relationships with the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and with the groups in Environment Canada who will be implementing the proposed Species at Risk Act.

Action 01-05-13: WMAC (NS) will write a letter of support to Don Russell, Canadian Wildlife Service, for proposed study titled "Grizzly Bear Status Assessment in the Northern Richardson Mountains"

H. Old Business (continued)

3. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch. Dave reported that YTG has finished the first public meeting of the Management Plan review. None of the sessions were very well attended. This isn't of too great a concern as a lot of comments had already been received from interested parties. Dave will now begin to draft the Management Plan. The issue paper that is included in the meeting binders will be incorporated into the Plan. A draft of the Plan will be ready in the fall for further review.

The Park is now open, with the staff on site. Dave himself has moved into the Land Claims unit of YTG. He has taken the responsibility for Herschel with him to his new position and will still be providing the park rangers with operational support. The Parks and Recreation Branch has been integrated with the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat. Eric Val is the new Acting Director, of this new unit, which is to be known as the Parks and Protected Areas Branch.

The Chair commented on the importance of establishing an annual reporting cycle for Herschel Island Park. A letter has been written to the new Acting Director to communicate the previous commitment by the Yukon Government to report to the Council, on an annual cycle about Herschel Island park planning and activities.

The Chair added the importance for YTG to be aware of the provision in the IFA that allows developments adjacent to Pauline Cove at Herschel Island. YTG needs to be ready for this possibility in light of renewed off-shore hydrocarbon exploration interests. Dave replied that they have been getting a lot of questions and requests from oil and gas interests. The caisson at Herschel is going to be removed soon.

4. Long Term Research Plan - Guide for Researchers

The Secretariat reported that all the comments received on the draft of the Researchers Guide had been incorporated into the document. Some formatting changes had been done as well. A few of the contact phone numbers and addresses need to be verified and then the Guide will be complete. It will be posted on the website and a plain hard copy will be produced. The final version should be complete before the next IGC meeting.

5. Wildlife Act Regulations- update

The Chair reported that YTG has prepared a paper that identifies which regulations should be developed as a result of the amendment to the Wildlife Act. These need to be reviewed by the Working Group so that work can go ahead. The IGC needs to review the paper before a meeting is held. YTG is waiting to hear back from the IGC regarding meeting dates.

Action 01-05-14: The Chair will request that the IGC propose a meeting date for the Wildlife Act Amendment Working Group to review regulation requirements.

The Porcupine Caribou Herd- A Presentation by Don Russell, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Don Russell gave a presentation on the trends and status of the Porcupine caribou herd. Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- The Porcupine herd is a small herd compared to others in Canada.
- It is not as productive as the Alaskan herds and has a high cow mortality (16%) The herd is declining.
- The birth rate hasn't changed since the decline began. More calves are surviving in their first month of life. If 100 calves are born, 25 die in the first month (13 from accident and poor nutrition, 7 from eagles, 3 from grizzly bears and 2 from wolf kills)
- What has changed to make the herd decline? Birth rate and calf survival is OK but spring and summer temperatures are rising within the range, especially in from March to June.
- Warmer springs mean a faster snow melt. This is good for the cows on the calving grounds as there is more food available, which in turn means better calf survival.
- But are warmer springs good during the spring migration? Warmer springs cause an increase in spring thaw and freeze cycle. These cycles have been happening during the period of the herd's decline. Ice layers make travelling and feeding harder. The caribou are forced up on to the ridges where there is a higher mortality due to wolves. Warmer springs also effects the crossing of rivers.
- Future threats include climate trends and development. Climate changes maybe causing plants to dry out earlier. There is an increase trend to use the 1002 lands as temperatures increase and it is this area that is threatened with development.
- Population models show that the further to the east the calving grounds are shifted the more calf mortality increases due to food availability and predators.
- There could be cumulative impacts on the herd such as development in 1002, oil and gas exploration off the Dempster, development at King Point or a winter road to Old Crow.
- The future of the herd may depend on the ability to assess and manage impacts of cumulative development.
- Climate change can make the impacts of development more severe.
- The herd has low productivity compared to other herds. A very little change in calf mortality or adult cow mortality can prevent the herd from increasing.
- Small changes are almost impossible to measure. It may not be possible to prove that development is effecting the herd until it is too late to do anything about it.
- The herd is healthy. The body condition of the animals is good and they are safe to eat. There is no reason to be concerned about radioactivity.
- The herd maybe breaking into smaller herds due to changes in habitat.

H. Old Business (continued)

6. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

Members reviewed the documents prepared by Kirsten Madsen that consolidated the comments received during the review of the draft Plan.

A copy of the 2000 draft Plan was distributed to everyone who attended the North Slope Conference in September 2000. Copies were also mailed to a further 35 individuals or organizations who did not attend the conference. The draft copies requested reviewers to provide comments to WMAC(NS) by December.

Comments were received from the following:

- Yukon Territorial Government
- Parks Canada
- Michael Muller – GIS Specialist, Joint Secretariat
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee
- Robert Hornal – Chair, EIRB
- Scott Alexander – Implementation Co-ordinator, Government of the NWT

Comments were also received from the Environmental Impact Review Board's legal counsel. The EIRB sent a copy of the draft Plan to their legal counsel, requesting an opinion on whether the EIRB has the authority to undertake items identified in the Plan. These comments are not included in this summary.

The comments on the Plan were organized into three sections. The first deals with general comments relating to the entire Plan. The second reviews specific comments relating to particular action items or sections of the Plan. The third lists the suggested minor or housekeeping changes to the Plan.

Members reviewed each comment and decided how to respond. It was agreed that it should be explicit throughout the Plan that the Council is acting in an advisory capacity, making recommendations as opposed to directing agencies to carry out tasks. The word 'should' needs to be changed to 'recommend'. Council members decided on changes and additions that are needed in the document to clarify the Council's intentions.

A discussion was held regarding the provision in the IFA for development within a conservation regime. All development is subject to the IFA's conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope, unless otherwise required for public convenience and necessity (and this requires justification). WMAC(NS)'s role is to provide advise to regulators, the EISC, the EIRB and others so as to ensure the IFA's requirements for conservation on the Yukon North Slope are met. Comments in the Plan that refer to the Withdrawal Order are recommendations that apply to the Yukon North Slope only.

Action 01-05-15: WMAC(NS) will write to those who provided comments on the draft Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, indicating how the Council responded to each suggestion.

The Chair commented that the agreed to changes will be incorporated into the draft as soon as possible. The Plan should be ready for the Council's final approval and recommendation at the next meeting.

J. Financial Report

a) 2000 – 2001 Year End Financial Statement

The Secretariat reviewed the year end financial statement. The Council was \$1,508 over budget. This can be covered out of the following year's budget. Expenses for regular meetings were underbudget but those for other meetings were over. An explanation was given of the way in which the Chair's and Secretariat's time is charged. Kim Tanner will now prepare a Review Engagement Report which the members will be able to review and approve at the next meeting.

Motion

To accept the 2000 -2001 year end financial statement.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

b) 2001- 2001 WMAC(NS) Budget

The Secretariat presented a draft budget for 2001-02. Allocations at the beginning of the year have been the same for a number of years. A discussion was held on the value of reviewing the historic allocations through a zero-based budgeting exercise. It would also be valuable to review to what tasks the Chair's and Secretariat's time is being allocated.

Action 01-05-16: Members will review the allocations of expenses in the WMAC(NS) budget at the next Council meeting.

The Chair commented that some of the unassigned funds should be allocated to projects as they are needed at this time. Members agreed to the allocation of \$5000 to the purchase of assets in order to buy a new computer and fax machine for the office. Other items needing an allocation of funding were discussed and amounts agreed to. The balance of unallocated funds will be considered further at the next meeting.

Motion

To accept the draft 2001-02 WMAC(NS) budget and to allocate the following amounts of funds unassigned in the budget to: Purchase of assets (\$5000); Ecological Monitoring / Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

(\$3000); Web page development (\$2000) and the Long-term Research Plan (\$1000).

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

H. Old Business (continued)

7. Roles and Responsibilities Workshop

The Chair reported on the Roles and Responsibilities Workshop held in Inuvik in early April. The Chair, Secretariat and Danny C. Gordon all attended. Discussions and decisions of the workshop are outlined in the workshop report.

8. Muskox Management

Dorothy Cooley presented an update on the Plan consultations. Nineteen agencies were contacted by WMAC(NS) to find out their level of interest in being consulted on the Plan. The only written comment that was received was from the IGC. Nothing has been received from the Vuntut National Park. Old Crow wants to see the plan cover the entire north Yukon. The Vuntut Gwitchin want to have further discussions with the Inuvialuit and other Gwich'in. there was a public meeting with the Mayo RRC. It was a good meeting but there were no concerns raised. The Fort McPherson RRC had no concerns. No one there wants to hunt. There hasn't been a response from the Fish and Wildlife Management Board or the Yukon Fish and Game Association. The PCMB has said that they will review the plan and get back to Dorothy if they have any concerns. The consultation with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee was delayed until after their trip to Kaktovik. The consultation still needs to take place.

A discussion was held as to who should be signing off on the Plan and what is the role of the GNWT. It was acknowledged that several management complications arose after a muskox was shot near Old Crow last winter.

Members agreed that the proposed three-day workshop in Aklavik in the fall needs to address the completion of the Plan and determine a strategy for its implementation. The Council will make its recommendations following the workshop. The AHTC still needs to review the Plan. The Council's draft muskox plan addresses management issues on the Yukon North Slope. The Yukon Government has requested that the plan be revised to consider management issues and harvest allocations throughout the Canadian range of the population.

Action 01-05-17: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a concept paper on the proposed Aklavik muskox management workshop for members to review at the next Council meeting.

9. 2000-01 Wildlife Management and Research

Dorothy Cooley reported that a count of muskox on the North Slope was completed in April. Parks Canada counted 123 animals. This is about the average number that has been located over the past few years. The snow was a little deeper this year. Dorothy will have a further breakdown of information to present at the next meeting.

The Chair noted that some information on other 2000-01 research can be found in the meeting binders. There was no further discussion on the programs.

K. Next Meeting

A discussion was held as to members' availability for meetings over the summer. The end of June was identified as a possible time for a meeting. The Secretariat will contact members to confirm a date as soon as possible.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Dorothy Cooley
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date